

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MTN GE 00570 01 OF 02 271713Z

ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00

COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01

EA-07 /095 W

-----271718Z 070314 /41

P 271637Z JAN 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2202

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 0570

ACTION STR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, MTN

SUBJ: WASHINGTON VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN MTN AMBASSADOR FEB 7

1. AUSTRALIAN INTEREST IN THE MTN LIES ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY IN THE AGRICULTURAL SECTOR (PLUS A DEFENSIVE POSTURE TOWARD AUSTRALIAN TARIFFS AND OTHER PROTECTIVE DEVICES). CONSEQUENTLY, OBVIOUS TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH FOGARTY WILL BE MTN ISSUES DIRECTLY AFFECTIVE OR CLOSELY RELATED TO AGRICULTURE. IT WOULD BE USEFUL AND TIMELY TO PROBE FOGARTY'S THINKING ABOUT WHAT A POSSIBLE GRAINS ARRANGEMENT MIGHT LOOK LIKE AS WELL AS WHAT AUSTRALIA THINKS MIGHT REALISTICALLY BE ACHIEVABLE WITH RESPECT TO MEAT AND DAIRY. CLOSELY RELATED TOPIC OF SUBSIDIES AND COUNTERVAILING DUTIES ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD TO AGRICULTURAL SUBSIDIES, SHOULD ALSO BE A PRINCIPAL TOPIC FOR EXCHANGE OF VIEWS PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF CANADIAN NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE (REF. GENEVA 0413).

2. AUSTRALIA ANNOUNCED A SHIFT IN ITS ATTITUDE TOWARDS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MTN GE 00570 01 OF 02 271713Z

GROUP AGRICULTURE WORK PROGRAM LAST DECEMBER (MTN GENEVA 10051) BY REMOVING ITS RESERVATION TO A BILATERAL APPROACH UNDER "OTHER PRODUCT" PROCEDURES AND PROPOSING THAT GROUP AGRICULTURE AND ITS SUBGROUPS ADOPT A MULTILATERAL APPROACH TO SOLUTIONS ON AGRICULTURAL TRADE ISSUES (MTN GENEVA 9723). IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO PROBE FOGARTY ABOUT AUSTRALIA'S INTENTION WITH RESPECT TO TIMING OF

GROUP AGRICULTURE'S CONSIDERATION OF THEIR PROPOSAL AND TO GAINING ACCEPTANCE BY THOSE DELEGATIONS WHICH ARE OPPOSED TO DISCUSSING GENERAL PRINCIPLES EVEN IN GROUP AGRICULTURE, LET ALONE IN CONCERT WITH OTHER MTN FORA.

3. SIMILARLY, IN THE G-18 CONTEXT, AUSTRALIA IS PUSHING FOR A MEANINGFUL MULTILATERAL DISCUSSION OF OVERALL AGRICULTURAL TRADE PROBLEMS IN THE GATT TO SEEK "IN PRINCIPLE" MEANS OF IMPROVING THE PROSPECTS FOR WORLD AGRICULTURAL TRADE (MTN GENEVA 8373). DOES AUSTRALIA INTEND TO CONTINUE TO PURSUE ITS AGRICULTURAL ITEM IN THE G-18? IF SO, WHAT "IN PRINCIPLE" COMMITMENTS DO THEY ENVISAGE ATTAINABLE WITHIN THE CURRENT TIME FRAME OF THE MTN?

4. THE FOLLOWING IS A SYNOPSIS OF MAIN POSITIONS TAKEN BY AUSTRALIA ON OTHER MTN ISSUES:

A) TARIFFS-AUSTRALIA'S CURRENT ASSESSMENT OF THE MTN HAS LED IT TO CONCLUDE THAT THE MTN WILL BRING LITTLE IN THE WAY OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION BENEFITS FOR ITS PRINCIPAL EXPORTS. ON THE IMPORT SIDE, A BROAD RANGE OF FINISHED PRODUCTS ARE VERY IMPORT-SENSITIVE. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, AUSTRALIA SEES NO WAY IN WHICH IT COULD PARTICIPATE IN THE MTN AS A ARIFF FORMULA COUNTRY. RATHER, AUSTRALIA CAN BE EXPECTED TO NEGOTIATE ON AN ITEM-BY-ITEM BASIS, OFFERING TARIFF BINDINGS AT PRESENT OR REDUCED RATES, AND REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF THE BRITISH PREFERENTIAL MARGIN. AUSTRALIA IS ALSO LIKELY TO SEEK SOME FORM OF CREDIT IN THE MTN FOR ITS ACROSS-THE-BOARD 25 PERCENT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MTN GE 00570 01 OF 02 271713Z

TARIFF REDUCTION OF 1973 AND ITS RECENT REDUCTION OR ELIMINATION OF THE BRITISH PREFERENTIAL MARGIN ON A LARGE NUMBER OF PRODUCTS.

B) NON TARIFF MEASURES - THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE TAKEN AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THOSE NTM SUBGROUPS WHICH GIVE THEM THE OPPORTUNITY TO RAISE AGRICULTURAL ISSUES. AUSTRALIA HAS BEEN PERSISTENT IN ITS ATTEMPTS TO HAVE A SUBGROUP ESTABLISHED ON NONTARIFF CHARGES ON IMPORTS (INCLUDING VARIABLE LEVIES AND MINIMUM IMPORT PRICES). IN THE SUBSIDY GROUP AUSTRALIA HAS ARGUED FOR STRONGER RULES ON EXPORT SUBSIDIES, AND IN PARTICULAR, FOR THIRD COUNTRY SUBSIDIZATION. IT HAS GIVEN GENERAL SUPPORT TO THE U.S. CONCEPTS PAPER. ON STANDARDS THE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION HAS IMPROVED MARKEDLY AFTER A PERIOD OF DISINTEREST. THEIR PRIMARY CONCERNS ARE THE NEED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENT OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE CODE, AND THE NEED FOR SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS WHICH WOULD RELEASE A COUNTRY FROM THE CODE'S OBLIGATIONS IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. ON QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS THEY

HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE BILATERAL FACT-FINDING CONSULTATIONS, AND FAVOR AMULTILATERAL APPROACH TO THE ELIMINATION OF QRS RATHER THAN A BILATERAL REQUEST AND OFFER

APPROACH.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MTN GE 00570 02 OF 02 271716Z  
ACTION STR-04

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 STRE-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00  
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 FRB-03 H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03  
LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15  
ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01  
EA-07 /095 W

-----271718Z 070384 /41

P 271637Z JAN 77

FM USDEL MTN GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2203

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 2 OF 2 MTN GENEVA 0570

ACTION STR

C) SAFEGUARDS - ALTHOUGH BOTH U.S. AND AUSTRALIA, AT THE OUTSET, CALLED FOR ALL SAFEGUARD-TYPE MEASURES TO BE TREATED BY THE GROUP, THE AUSTRALIANS HAVE BEGUN TO SENSE THAT THE U.S. WILL NOT MAKE A FRONTAL ATTACK IN THAT GROUP ON THOSE AGRICULTURAL MEASURES DESIGNED TO PROTECT DOMESTIC FARM PROGRAMS, BUT WILL HOLD FAIRLY STRICTLY TO COMMERCIAL INJURY SITUATIONS AS DEFINING THE NEED FOR SAFEGUARD MEASURES. THUS, AUSTRALIA HAS RESERVED ITS POSITION ON THE U.S. PROPOSAL, AWAITING CLEARER INDICATION AS TO WHETHER AGRICULTURAL BARRIERS WILL BE ADEQUATELY DEALT WITH IN OTHER GROUPS.

D) FRAMEWORK IMPROVEMENT - AUSTRALIANINTERVENTIONS HAVE BEEN LARGELY LIMITED TO THE SUBJECT OF EXPORT RESTRICTIONS, WHERE THEY HAVE FORMALLY RESERVED ON ANY GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE ISSUE BUT WILLING TO CONSIDER THE MATTER IN SPECIFIC COMMODITY TERMS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE QUESTION OF MARKET ACCESS.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MTN GE 00570 02 OF 02 271716Z

5. AMBASSADOR WALKER EXPECTS TO BE IN WASHINGTON FEB.  
7-8 AND WILL BE HAPPY TO PARTICIPATE IN MEETING WITH  
AMBASSADOR FOGARTY.WALKER

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MEETING AGENDA, TRADE, AGRICULTURE, VISITS, AMBASSADORS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 27-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MTNGE00570  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770030-0039  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MTN GENEVA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19770113/aaaaakwg.tcl  
**Line Count:** 179  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 1ac138d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION STR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 4  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3485864  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** WASHINGTON VISIT OF AUSTRALIAN MTN AMBASSADOR FEB 7  
**TAGS:** ETRD, EAGR, AS, US, MTN  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/1ac138d0-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009